

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07
TRSE-00 SAJ-01 LAB-04 /070 W
-----250222 036008 /73

R 241746Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0293
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
R/AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA 2219
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 1492

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: MORE PS DISSIDENT ACTIVITY

SUMMARY: PS LEFT WING LEADER ANTONIO LOPES CARDOSO ON FEB 23
ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A SOCIALIST CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
TO PROMOTE DEBATE OF THE PROBLEMS FACING SOCIALISM IN PORTUGAL
AND ELSEWHERE. FORMATION OF THE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDES
PROMINENT PS LABOR DISSIDENTS AND EIGHT PS LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES, WILL COMPLICATE SOARES'S EFFORTS TO
UNIFY HIS PARTY BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. PS LEFTWINGS ORGANIZE: FORMER AGRICULTURE MINISTER
ANTONIO LOPES CARDOSO ON FEB 23 ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF
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A SOCIALIST STUDY GROUP, DUBBED THE SOCIALIST CULTURAL
ASSOCIATION - WORKERS BROTHERHOOD. THE 81 FOUNDING MEMBERS
INCLUDE PS LABOR LEFTWINGERS LUIS KALIDAS BARRETO AND JOSE
LUIS GASPAR; EIGHT PS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES; AND
"OPCAO" DIRECTOR ARTUR PERTELA FILHO AND OTHER "INDEPENDENT
SOCIALISTS." LOPES CARDOSO CAREFULLY DEFINED THE PURPOSES
OF THE ORGANIZATION AS FALLING WELL WITHIN THE GUIDELINES

OF THE NEW PS STATUTES RECOGNIZING THE RIGHT OF TENDENCY
WITHIN THE PARTY.

2. SA CARNEIRO REAFFIRMS OPPOSITION: IN TWO FEB 23
INTERVIEWS, PSD PRESIDENT SA CARNEIRO REAFFIRMED HIS PARTY'S
"FRONTAL OPPOSITION TO THE SOARES GOVERNMENT." SA CARNEIRO
SAID:
-- CONTINUED OPPOSITION: THE PSD WILL CONTINUE ITS "FRONTAL,
BUT NON-SYSTEMATIC OPPOSITION," TO THE SOARES GOVERNMENT.
-- PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING: A PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG THE MAJOR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE
PRESIDENT, IS AN URGENT NECESSITY.
-- GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED: THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT KEPT THE
OPPOSITION ADEQUATELY INFORMED OF THE REASONS FOR FOREIGN
LOANS. THE PORTUGUESE CAN ACCEPT A TOUGH AUSTERITY PROGRAM
BUT THEY MUST HAVE GREATER CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT.
-- NO OPPOSITION TO PS-PSD FUSION: THE UNIFICATION OF THE
PS AND PSD INTO ONE LARGE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY WOULD BE
ENTIRELY ACCEPTABLE; HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS
FOR THIS HAPPENING.
-- NO SECOND LABOR CONFEDERATION NOW: A SECOND CONFEDERATION
OF TRADE UNIONS SHOULD NOT BE FORMED NOW; DEMOCRATIC UNIONS
SHOULD SEEK GREATER COOPERATION.

3. CUNHAL REITERATES PCP LINE: IN EXERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW
GIVEN TO THE HUNGARIAN NEWS AGENCY MIT CARRIED FEB 24 IN
"O DIARIO," PCP LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL REITERATED FAMILIAR
THEMES. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:
-- AFM STILL ALIVE: THE SPIRIT OF APRIL 25 REMAINS ALIVE
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IN THE ARMED FORCES; A MILITARY CURRENT LOYAL TO THE
CONSTITUTION PERSISTS.
-- PS-PCP UNITY: SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS ARE ALREADY
COOPERATING IN THE TRADE UNION FIELD; THIS TENDENCY WILL
EVENTUALLY PRODUCE A POLITICAL ALLIANCE IN SPITE OF THE
CURRENT RIGHTIST ORIENTATION OF THE PS GOVERNMENT.
-- THE FASCIST CONSPIRACY: INDISCRIMINATE RECOURSE TO
FOREIGN LOANS AND PREMATURE EFFORTS TO ENTER THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY PROMOTE FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

4. MELO ANTUNES KNOCKS PS GOVERNMENT: IN AN INTERVIEW WITH
MADRID'S "CUADERNOS PARA EL DIALOGO" REPRINTED FEB 24 BY
CONSERVATIVE DAILY "O DIA," RC MEMBER MAJ MELO ANTUNES
CRITICIZED THE PS GOVERNMENT FOR MOVING AWAY FROM THE
ORIGINAL PROGRAM OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. MELO

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ANTUNES ADVOCATED A CONTINUED ROLE FOR THE RC IN DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY WHICH, HE ASSERTED, WAS THREATENED BY POWERFUL CIVILIAN AND MILITARY FOES. MELO ANTUNES' COMMENTS WILL LIKELY BE SEIZED UPON TO REVIVE CONTROVERSY OVER THE RC'S PROPER ROLE.

5. BISHOPS CALL FOR AUSTERITY: THE CONFERENCE OF PORTUGUESE BISHOPS WHICH MET LAST WEEK IN FATIMA ISSUED A LENTEN MESSAGE TO THE FAITHFUL FEB 23. THE BISHOPS CALLED FOR VOLUNTARY AUSTERITY IN THE FACE OF PORTUGAL'S GAVE ECONOMIC CRISIS. THEY LABELED OSTENTATIOUSNESS AND LUXURY "AN INTOLERABLE SCANDEL" IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. THE BISHOPS URGED REDEDICATION TO WORK AND IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LABOR AND MANAGEMENT.

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6. COMMENT: FORMATION OF THE LOPES CARDOSO GROUP SPELLS MORE TROUBLE FOR SOARES'S EFFORTS TO UNIFY HIS PARTY BEHIND

THE GOVERNMENT. THE INCLUSION OF EIGHT PS DEPUTIES AMONG THE FOUNDERS, COMBINED WITH THE PREVIOUS EXPULSION OF CARMELINDA PEREIRA AND AIRES RODRIGUES, REDUCES THE PS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP TO 97 "RELIABLE" DEPUTIES. THE SOCIALISTS BELIEVE THEY NEED A MINIMUM OF 92 DEPUTIES TO CONTINUE TO GOVERN ALONE. THE INCLUSION OF PROMINENT PS LABOR LEFTWINGERS, INCLUDING KALIDAS BARRETO OF THE CGTP AND JOSE JUIS GASPAR OF THE "OPEN LETTER" MOVEMENT, WILL FURTHER COMPLICATE PS EFFORTS TO PUT TOGETHER A WINNING LABOR STRATEGY.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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